



HURRICANE INFORMATION

City of Hampton
Office of Emergency Management
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Hurricane Preparedness

The City of Hampton can be threatened by hurricanes during the period between June 1 and November 30: the peak period being August and September. During this period, visitors and residents of Hampton should monitor storms that develop and may threaten the Atlantic Coast. Hurricanes are large windstorms that may cover several hundred miles of area. Associated with hurricanes are extreme winds, greater than 75 miles per hour, tidal surges that may exceed 20 feet, large amounts of rain, and possibly tornadoes. Hurricanes, because of the destruction associated with their wind, rain, tornadoes and tidal surges are potentially extremely destructive and life threatening. In general, if you live in a well built home and are not threatened by tidal or rising water, you can ride out a hurricane in your home. Whether you decide to remain at home or to evacuate, you should plan your actions based upon these potential impacts and consequences of a hurricane. To prepare yourself for the eventuality of a hurricane, you should consider the following information.

Vulnerability to Hurricanes

As a coastal community, Hampton recognizes hurricanes as a primary hazard that it must be prepared to respond to. Depending upon the size of the storm and the direction the storm follows, various sections of the City may be affected. The shorelines of Grandview, Buckroe Beach and the area along Chesapeake Blvd., are threatened in just about all forms of storms, including winter storms. Vulnerable areas extend inland to include inland waterways and bodies of water that might be affected by the storm based upon wind direction, tidal conditions and rainfall. Therefore, it is important to understand the tidal history of the community and neighborhood.

Tidewater Hurricane Experience

Hurricanes occur in the Atlantic and in other oceans of the world annually. The probability that a hurricane will strike in a specific year is relatively low. Tidewater's history is such that we may expect to feel the effects of hurricane force winds an average of three times in a twenty-year period. Within a century winds and tides may produce considerable damage and significantly threaten life. Historical references indicate that three known storms have hit this area and have been powerful enough to alter coastal features. This history implies that we can, over time, expect to experience hurricanes. The infrequency and lack of experience from hurricanes are a serious obstacle in mobilizing the community to properly prepare for the eventuality of a hurricane.

Hurricane Information

Hurricanes are a form of severe weather common around the world: in other parts of the world they go by different names. These windstorms develop over warm water and move based upon surrounding weather conditions. Storms may develop in the Gulf, along the East Coast or off the Africa coast. The primary characteristic of a hurricane is a counter clockwise circulation of wind and low pressure. Hurricanes are classified according to wind speed, barometric pressure and tidal surges. This classification is known as the Saffir-Simpson Scale. The nature of hurricanes and their impact are such that they can produce conditions from minor flooding to catastrophic damage. Category 3 or 4 storms are much more serious and must be taken with significantly greater concern by the public based upon the potential for damage. Hurricanes can be tracked very effectively, but the problem is that their movement cannot be forecast with great certainty. This lack of certainty requires the public to be aware of potential unexpected changes in storm tracks. City government may have to act with little information and well ahead of expected bad weather to protect the public.

Weather Information

During periods of threatening conditions, the public should monitor news and whether reports for information about developing conditions and recommendations of local government regarding evacuation, sheltering, and storm preparations. The key phrases you should listen for include: Tropical Storm Watch, Tropical Storm Warning, Hurricane Watch, and Hurricane Warning. Watches and warnings are how the National Weather Service alerts the public to the potential threats and probability of severe weather conditions. Watches usually are for an extended period, as much as 24 hours, and when the conditions are less certain to develop. Warnings are more certain that the event will occur and there is less time to react to the weather conditions. Watches and warnings can be given with very little warning based upon the movement of a storm. Consequently it is important to keep up with current weather information.

Pre-Planning for Hurricanes

Before a hurricane threatens or approaches, there are many considerations that you should review in advance. Based upon your particular circumstances and where you live, you should decide how you would handle a hurricane. These considerations and actions include:

1. What is the storm and flooding history of the area?
2. Are you going to ride the storm out in your home?
3. What are your evacuation options, can you go to family or friends?
4. Where are you going to evacuate to?
5. What evacuation route will you use?
6. Do you have flood insurance coverage? Homeowner insurance will not cover tidal flooding.
7. Have you assembled a disaster kit with food, clothing, flashlight, radio, batteries, first aid kit, fire extinguisher, medication, and water?
8. Have you arranged for your pets? They are not allowed in shelters.

When the Storm Approaches

Once a hurricane develops and has the potential of threatening the community, you may want to take additional actions before the storm strikes.

1. Regularly monitor the storm news and local weather information.
2. Keep in touch with family members.
3. Collect important papers and valuables.
4. Plan for a water supply such as containers or the bath tub.
5. Obtain food that is easily prepared.
6. Ensure sufficient prescribed medications are available.
7. Check the vehicle and fill the gas tank.
8. Protect property by closing shutters, covering windows, and storing potential flying objects from the yard.

Evacuation Considerations

Due to the inherent danger from a hurricane, you may need to consider evacuation. The following should be considered in your evacuation decision:

1. You live in a mobile home.
2. You live in an area threatened by rising water.
3. You live in an area that might be cut off by flooding.
4. You would feel more comfortable in another place.
5. You have a special medical condition that requires access to health care providers.
6. When evacuation is recommended or ordered by local officials.

Evacuation recommendations are issued by the City, and are based upon information from the National Weather Service and other sources. Residents should monitor conditions and make their evacuation decision based upon the information available to them. Evacuations, particularly in the Tidewater region, will require an extended amount of time to allow residents to leave. The regional evacuation plan establishes evacuation routes for specific areas within the city and the region. Due to the conditions that will develop during an evacuation, routes out of the area may be rapidly congested or blocked due to both weather and other situations. When evacuating, please consider the following:

1. Plan to evacuate early, and in daylight if possible.
2. Tell someone where you are going.
3. Take your personal identification with you to prove your residency.
4. Take your disaster supplies with you.
5. Take precautions to protect your property before you leave.
6. Eat well before leaving the area, or going to a shelter.
7. Closely monitor traffic conditions during evacuation, and drive defensively.
8. Access back to your property may be limited.
9. Continue to monitor developing traffic and weather conditions.
10. Complete your evacuation before the tropical force winds arrive.
11. Be prepared to evacuate in good weather.
12. Consider friends and relatives as possible destinations to evacuate to.

Sheltering

The City will open and operate short-term shelters when conditions warrant. These shelters provide protection from the storm to individuals who wish to go to them. In the aftermath of a storm, long term shelters will be opened if needed, and will provide more extensive services to the public needing sheltering. Availability of bedding and food cannot be guaranteed during short term sheltering. City employees, under American Red Cross guidelines operate and manage the shelters. Shelter living will have some inconveniences, so you should come prepared to cooperate and work with the staff and other shelter residents to make the best of the situation. When going to a shelter, you need to consider the following:

1. No pets are allowed in public shelters. The American Red Cross handles disabled service animals on a case-by-case basis.
2. Bring bedding and bedding materials.

3. Bring food and water.
4. Bring your medications and prescriptions.
5. Bring a change of clothing, to include shoes.
6. Bring your personal identification to the shelter.
7. Bring games, books or activities to pass the time.
8. No smoking, alcohol or weapons are allowed in the shelter.
9. Noisy and disruptive behavior will not be allowed.
10. Eat well before going to the shelter.
11. Do not go to a shelter until it has been opened.
12. Listen to radio and television for shelter locations and opening times.

The City has designated some schools as public shelters. The number of shelters will be determined by the nature of the event, and other considerations. The hurricane shelters for Hampton are:

Bethel High School
1067 Big Bethel Road

Forrest Elementary School
1406 Todds Lane

Jefferson Davis Middle School
1435 Todds Lane

Kraft Elementary School
600 Concord Drive

Tucker-Capps Elementary School
113 Wellington Drive

Listen to public announcements as the storm approaches for information on shelter openings. These announcements will indicate which the locations and times the shelters will open. Shelters will be opened according to needs, and all shelters may not be opened for an event.

Considerations During the Storm

When the effects of the storm are felt, individuals should take precautions to include:

1. **Stay indoors. Be weary of the eye of the storm.**
2. **Stay in a well-protected section of your home.**
3. **Keep away from high tides or storm water.**
4. **Be aware of danger of fire during the storm.**
5. **Shut off your utilities if flooding threatens.**
6. **Use the telephone and cell phones only in emergencies.**

After the Storm

Based upon the severity of the storm, basic services that may not be available during and after the storm, may include: water, sewer, phones, electricity, television, radio and cable. Roadways may be blocked and impassible. Businesses and government facilities may not be back in service and fully operational for some time. Disaster assistance may take some time to arrive. You may not have access to public information to advise you on actions to take. Things to consider during this period include:

1. **Treat all down lines as live wires and do not touch them.**
2. **Be extremely careful if you use open flames.**
3. **Inspect property for structural damage, and repair what you can to prevent further damage.**
4. **Check on you neighbors who may need help.**
5. **Do no go sightseeing. Emergency workers will be busy and need access to the disaster area.**
6. **Watch for food spoilage, and take proper sanitary and cooking precautions.**
7. **Make sure the water supply is safe. Take proper disinfecting measures.**
8. **Inspect for storm damage that could cause a threat to life or property.**
9. **Watch out for animals dislocated by the storm.**

Recovery Operations

After the storm, the City of Hampton will immediately begin the processes in reestablishing primary services and facilities into an operational condition. The public may need to be patient as the City responds and seeks assistance in recovery operations. You should listen to radio and television for public information updates and about recovery issues.

Public Information

The Hampton Office of Emergency Management is prepared to assist you with questions about hurricane preparedness. You should not wait until the last minute to have your questions answered. When storms threaten the area, phone lines will become busy and you may not have the opportunity to have your questions answered. Normal daily operating hours are from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., except holidays and weekends. You should call 727-6414 for assistance during these times.

Miscellaneous Information

Emergency Calling Tips - When reporting an emergency in the City of Hampton, Dial 911 from any phone or pay phone. Before, during and after a hurricane, it will become increasingly difficult to use the telephone. Non Emergency calls and cell phone calls should be placed to 727-6111. Other information or assistance numbers will be announced over radio and television. When calling please remember to:

- 1. Make only essential calls**
- 2. Keep all calls brief.**
- 3. Identify yourself and your location**
- 4. Speak clearly and calmly**
- 5. Hang up only when told to do so.**

Special Needs

Individuals with special needs may voluntarily register with the City, which provides emergency responders information about their disability. The special needs registration program also allows the Office of Emergency Management the opportunity to assist individuals with special needs in developing their individual emergency plan. Individuals with special needs are responsible to ensure that they, in concert with their health care provider, prepare an emergency plan for use during a disaster. Other items for consideration should include early evacuation outside of the threatened area, ensuring those sufficient medical supplies and medications are on hand, and where health care services outside the area will be available. Hampton shelters have no capabilities to support individuals requiring skilled nursing or medical needs. Special needs individuals who can perform daily living activities for up to 72 hours by themselves or with their own personal caregiver to assist them, and who do not require skilled assistance may be adequately sheltered in a Hampton public shelter.

Saffir-Simpson Scale

The Saffir-Simpson Scale is a classification system used to measure the strength and impact of a hurricane. Storms are classified by category 1 through 5. As the category of the storm increases, so does the potential damage it may cause. The potential damage from a Category 5 storm as compared to a Category 1 storm is 240 times greater! When making plans for the impending threat of a hurricane, you must consider the category of the storm. The following summarizes the relative impacts of the different Saffir-Simpson Scale.

Category 1	Winds: 74 - 95 MPH	Surge: 4 - 5 Ft.
No real damage to building structures. Damage to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery and trees. Some minor coastal flooding and pier damage		
Category 2	Winds: 96 - 110 MPH	Surge: 6 - 8 Ft.
Some roofing material, door and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, piers, and mobile homes. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flood 2 - 4 hours before arrival of center.		
Category 3	Winds: 111 - 130 MPH	Surge: 9 - 12 Ft.
Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtain wall failure. Mobile homes destroyed. Flooding along coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris.		
Category 4	Winds: 131 - 155 MPH	Surge: 13 - 18 Ft.
More extensive curtain wall failure with some roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Major damage to lower floors or structures.		
Category 5	Winds: Greater than 155 MPH	Surge: Greater than 18 Ft.
Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet above sea level and within 500 yards of shoreline.		

Evacuation Routes

VDOT has developed an evacuation plan designed to minimize problems caused by heavy traffic. To ensure a successful evacuation, residents should leave as early as possible and use routes specified for their area. Because of the large population and limited number of highways leading out of Hampton Roads, it is necessary to have an phased evacuation with assigned routes. Hampton residents will participate in both phases of the evacuation plan.

Phase I:

- ✍ Individuals residing in the area of King St. and north of Pembroke Ave. will use I-64 toward Richmond.
- ✍ Individuals residing east of King St. and south of Pembroke Ave.(including Fort Monroe) will use Mercury Blvd. to the James River Bridge to Route 258/32 in Isle of Wight County or Route 60 West.
- ✍ Individuals residing east of King St. and south of Armistead Ave. (in the vicinity of Langley Air Force Base) will take Armistead Ave. To Magruder Blvd. and use Route 17 toward Gloucester County.
- ✍ Langley AFB will be evacuated out of the west gate toward Magruder Blvd. - South to I-64 east to Mercury Blvd. to the James River Bridge. Individuals will follow that route to their evacuation assembly area at Ft. Pickett Army Barracks.

Phase II

- ✍ Individuals residing west of King Street and south of Mercury Blvd. will use I-64 west toward Richmond.
- ✍ Individuals residing west of Armistead Ave. and north of Mercury Blvd. will use Route 17 north toward Gloucester County.

